

## Provisional Vital Statistics for March 2003

**Live births** increased in March as 6,247 Missouri babies were born compared with 5,705 one year earlier. Cumulative births for January—March increased by 2.5 percent from 17,474 to 17,911.

**Deaths** decreased in March as 5,065 Missourians died compared with 5,382 in March 2002. Cumulative deaths for January—March increased by 3.3 percent from 14,992 to 15,488.

The **Natural increase** in March was 1,182 (6,247 births minus 5,065 deaths). There was a slight decline in the natural increase for the cumulative 3- and 12- month periods ending with March.

**Marriages** decreased slightly in March, but increased for the cumulative 3- and 12- month periods ending with March.

**Dissolutions of marriage** decreased slightly in March and for the 12 months ending with March. The marriage to divorce ratio increased from 1.80 to 1.85 for the 12 months ending with March.

**Infant deaths** increased for all three time periods shown below. For the 12- months ending with March, the infant death rate increased from 7.9 to 8.8 per 1,000 live births.

### PROVISIONAL VITAL STATISTICS FOR MARCH 2003

Item	<u>March</u>				<u>Jan.-Mar. cumulative</u>				<u>12 months ending with March</u>				
	<u>Number</u>		<u>Rate*</u>		<u>Number</u>		<u>Rate*</u>		<u>Number</u>		<u>Rate*</u>		
	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
<b>Live Births</b> .....	5,705	6,247	11.8	12.5	17,474	17,911	12.5	12.7	73,387	77,108	13.8	13.0	13.6
<b>Deaths</b> .....	5,382	5,065	11.2	10.1	14,992	15,488	10.7	11.0	53,374	57,369	9.7	9.5	9.5
<b>Natural increase</b> ....	323	1,182	0.7	2.4	2,482	2,423	1.8	1.7	20,013	19,739	4.1	3.5	3.5
<b>Marriages</b> .....	2,575	2,555	5.3	5.1	6,934	7,190	5.0	5.1	41,941	42,550	7.7	7.4	7.5
<b>Dissolutions</b> .....	2,159	2,110	4.5	4.2	5,544	5,621	4.0	4.0	23,338	22,990	4.4	4.1	4.0
<b>Infant deaths</b> .....	62	64	10.9	10.2	155	172	8.9	9.6	579	678	7.4	7.9	8.8
<b>Population base</b> ..... (in thousands)	...	...	5,637	5,673	...	...	5,637	5,673	...	...	5,605	5,646	5,682

\* Rates for live births, deaths, natural increase, marriages and dissolutions are computed on the number per 1000 estimated population. The infant death rate is based on the number of infant deaths per 1000 live births. Rates are adjusted to account for varying lengths of monthly reporting periods.

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